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Shuster Questions President's Political Decision to Move 9/11 Mastermind, High Value Terrorists to New York City for Trial

Washington, D.C.—Congressman Bill Shuster released the following statement today after Attorney General Eric Holder announced the implementation of a plan by the Obama Administration to bring Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other terrorists to New York City to be tried in civilian criminal court:

“Today’s announcement that 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other high value terrorists will be brought to New York City to stand trial in civilian criminal court sets a dangerous precedent that will weaken our national security, put politics before justice and undermine the military tribunal system that has been operating for close to a decade.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was not arrested in some alley in Manhattan by the FBI. He was captured as an enemy combatant in an active overseas war zone by our military. These unrepentant terrorists belong in the military tribunal system, where classified information can be protected and the intelligence sources that led to their capture can remain protected.

Bringing terrorists into Lower Manhattan, so close to the footprint of the World Trade Center, is an affront to the nearly 3,000 families who still mourn the murder of their loved ones. The fact that these murderers could be found not guilty by some technicality or a hung jury should be enough for the President to reconsider his outrageous decision.

As this situation develops, I will remain watchful to ensure that Congress acts to protect the American people and bring justice upon the terrorists who would do us harm.”

NOTE: In May, House Republicans introduced H.R. 2294, the “Keep Terrorists out of America Act,” which would stop the transfer or release of terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay into the United States. Congressman Shuster is a cosponsor of this necessary legislation.

Additionally, following President Obama’s decision to close Guantanamo Bay earlier this year, the Administration was required by law to give 45 days’ notice on plans to transfer these dangerous detainees. To date, Congress has not been provided a single notification or plan regarding the transfer of detainees to the United States.

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